RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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JOINT SERVICE PAY COMMITTEE STUDY

On 17 September 1947 Admiral Sellers transmitted to Vice Admiral Fechteler, U. S. Navy for consideration by the Joint Service Pay Committee (Bul. 3rd Qtr., p. 7) copies of three proposed bills approved by the Association (Bul. Apr. 1945, p. 7), covering the following subjects:

(1) A proposed bill to amend Section 133 of the Revenue Act of 1942, Public Law 753, 77th Congress, so as to authorize exclusion from gross income of the compensation of personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey and Public Health Service who reach the statutory age limit for active duty in their respective services.

(2) A proposed bill to authorize three-quarters of allowances for quarters and subsistence for personnel on the retired list.

(3) A proposed bill to provide pensions for widows and dependents of deceased retired personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey and Public Health Service, in addition to pensions already authorized by law for such people, this special pension to be contributed to by retired personnel.

On the same date the Navy Department issued the following press release:

"A subcommittee of the Joint Service Pay Committee is studying possible revision of the existing system under which service personnel receive retired pay. At present, service personnel are not required to make direct contributions to the fund from which their retirement pay is disbursed.

" 'Since the present system is non-participating, certain aspects may be considered defective as compared with a participating plan.' Vice Admiral W. M. Fechteler, U.S.N., senior member of the Pay Committee said. He added:

" 'While individuals at present do not contribute to the retirement fund by pay-roll deductions as is the case with the Civil Service, Foreign Service and the Congress, service retirement privileges have always figured in considerations of pay schedules.

" 'The fact that service personnel do not contribute a definite percentage of their pay towards retirement has permitted widely varying estimates as to the value of existing rights. This in turn has been a factor in the reluctance of higher authority to support efforts looking to upward pay revisions in recent years.'

"Because of the impact of the present retirement system on active duty pay, Vice Admiral Fechteler pointed out, every individual contributes in effect, whereas only a part of the total ever receive retirement benefits. Those who are not retired, either through resignation or death, forfeit their intangible contributions.

"The present retirement system has no survivor benefits. An individual may have, in effect, contributed through a lowered active duty pay schedule during his entire active career, yet if he dies shortly after his retirement his survivors receive no benefits thereafter.

" 'At present, the civilian components who serve on active duty for relatively short periods, compared to the career serviceman, are denied such provisions for old age as are available to their civilian counterparts in industry through Social Security,' Vice Admiral Fechteler said.

"All studies of the problem have two basic safeguards, he explained: Any participating plan must be accompanied by an increase in pay at least sufficient to offset the contributions; and the equity which each individual now in the service has in retired pay under existing law must be preserved."

On 30 September 1947 Admiral Sellers addressed the following letter to Vice Admiral Fechteler:

"On 17 September 1947 Admiral Hamlet had the pleasure of presenting to you for consideration by the Joint Service Pay Committee, my letter of that date covering certain proposals of the Retired Officers Association with respect to the pay of retired military personnel. On that occasion Admiral Hamlet expressed to you the view of the Association that personnel previously retired should be included within the framework of any plan which proposes to provide

(Continued on page 3)

Holiday Greetings

The President, Directors and Staff of the Association Extend to Retired Officers, Their Families and Friends Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year. We Express Appreciation to Our Members for Their Cooperation which has done so much to Advance the Successful Development of the Association during the Past Year as an Instrumentality for the Mutual Benefit of Retired Officers, Their Widows and Dependents.

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LEGISLATIVE SITUATION DURING SPECIAL SESSION

As our Bulletin goes to press there is little indication of action during the special session of Congress on legislation affecting retired military personnel and veterans. It is however hoped that some action may be taken on certain matters of importance to retired personnel, either during the present special session or early in the regular session of Congress which meets in January. Most important among these measures are the retirement of Army officers at the highest rank held during World War II proposed in H.R. 2744 (Rep. Brooks); the crediting of service in World War I to those who were retired prior to the effective date of the fourth paragraph of Section 15 of the Pay Readjustment Act of 1942 which authorizes such credit to those who were retired subsequent to its enactment, as proposed in S.301 (Sen. MacFarland) and H.R. 1035 (Rep. Bradley); relaxation in the restrictions against the prosecution of claims against the Government by retired officers proposed in S.156 (Sen. Holland) and H.R. 4410 (Rep. Bolton); the crediting of service as a cadet, midshipman or aviation cadet proposed in S.657 (Sen. Gurney) and to equalize retirement benefits among members of the Nurse Corps of the Army and the Navy, hereto retired, S.1570 (Sen. Gurney) and H.R. 4090 (Rep. Andrews).

With regard to H.R. 1035 Representative Bradley recently addressed a letter to Representative Blackney (Mich.) of the House Committee on Armed Services in which he said in part: "I should greatly appreciate it if you could see fit to report H.R. 1035 out favorably in order that we might get some action on it during the Second Session. As I recall, the Navy and the War Departments are both in favor of this bill and it is intended only to correct what seems to me to be a plain injustice to a certain small group of officers when their status is taken into consideration in connection with others in somewhat the same category.

"I know that the Navy would greatly appreciate anything you can do to assist in getting this bill on the calendar."

Bills of interest to our members which have been introduced in the present session of Congress include the following: H.R. 4474 (Rep. Dolliver)—To extend to the veterans of the Mexican border service of 1916 and 1917 and their widows and minor children all the provisions, privileges, rights, and benefits of laws enacted for the benefit of veterans of the Spanish-American War (Referred to Committee on Veterans' Affairs); H.R. 4475 (Rep. Jenkins)—To increase the pension payable to war veterans suffering from permanent total non-service-connected disabilities from $50 to $75 per month (Referred to Committee on Veterans' Affairs); H.R. 4488 (Rep. Rodgers)—To amend the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, to provide homes for veterans, through veterans' homestead associations, and the public facilities essential therefor (Referred to Committee on Veterans' Affairs); H.R. 4492 (Rep. Andrews)—To authorize the advancement of certain lieutenants on the retired list of the Navy, and for other purposes (Referred to the Committee on Armed Services). (This bill proposes to promote to Lieutenant Commander on the retired list Lieutenants with service in World War I); H.R. 4500 (Rep. Andrews)—To amend the Act of July 24, 1941 (55 Stat. 605), as amended, so as to provide an equitable adjustment of retired pay for certain naval officers (Referred to Committee on Armed Services). (This bill proposes to amend section 10 of the above mentioned Act by adding the following new subsection:

"(f) Retired personnel in the following categories who served satisfactorily on active duty at any time between July 24, 1941, and on or prior to June 30, 1946, shall, if not otherwise entitled to the same or higher retired pay, be entitled to receive retired pay prescribed by law and applicable in each individual case but based upon the rank in which they so served:

"(1) Personnel, who upon retirement and pursuant to the Act of June 21, 1940 (46 Stat. 793; 34 U.S.C. 399c), were advanced to the highest temporary rank held during World War I;

"(2) Retired personnel who served in World War I in a rank higher than their permanent retired rank and who were subsequently advanced on the retired list to such higher rank; and

"(3) Personnel who served in World War I and were, upon retirement, placed upon the retired list with the rank of the next higher grade by reason of special commendation for their performance of duty in actual combat.

"Sec. 2. Personnel of the classes described above shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act from the date of release to inactive duty after service on active duty as provided above.")

Bills of interest which have recently been introduced in the Senate include the following: S. 1792 (Sen. Gurney). (This bill is identical to H.R. 4500, quoted above, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services); S. 1797 (Sen. Gurney). (This bill is identical to H.R. 4492, reported above, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services).

(Continued from page 1)

survivor benefits to the survivors of retired military personnel. That has always been the view of this Association which, in 1944, took form as the third of the above-mentioned proposals. I wish now to present to you for consideration by the Committee, the reasons upon which it is based. This can best be done by reference to the Navy Department Press Release of 17 September 1947 captioned—Joint Service Pay Board Studies Participating Retirement Plan—a copy of which you kindly furnished the Association.

"The Press Release states, and we fully concur, that 'because of the impact of the present retirement system on active duty pay, every individual contributes in effect' and that 'an individual may have, in effect, contributed through a lowered active duty pay schedule during his entire active career, yet if he dies shortly after his retirement his survivors receive no benefits thereafter.' The Press Release further states, and we likewise agree, that 'service retirement privileges have always figured in considerations of pay schedules'. Stated otherwise, service pay has always been inadequate to enable those who follow the military profession as a career to provide for themselves during retirement and for their dependents after they die. Consequently, even under present circumstances, retirement benefits should be looked upon as emoluments of office and as rights rather than privileges. If that be true, it applies in equal measure to those who have been retired as it does to those who happen still to be in active status, for the former, throughout their careers, have served under precisely the same system as the latter and must therefore be deemed to have contributed 'in effect' to their retired pay.

"In view of the above, it is assumed that the final statement of the Press Release that 'any participating plan must be accompanied by an increase in pay at least sufficient to offset the contributions; and the equity which each individual *now in service* has in retired pay under existing law must be preserved,' applies equally to those previously retired and to those in active status, both as to the proposed increase in pay, the contemplated contributions, and the proposed survivor benefits for the survivors of deceased personnel previously retired.

"For the above-mentioned reasons the proposal of the Association that pensions be provided for widows and dependents of deceased personnel of the military services contemplates contributions from those in retired status as well as those in active status, although it proposes no increase in pay, which should no doubt be provided to offset the contributions.

"Also, may I emphasize that, because simple justice, equity and human decency demand equal treatment for the widows and orphans of deceased military personnel now eking out a mere existance on the pitiably small pension of about $42.00 per month derived from the war service rendered his country by the deceased who contributed his entire service under the above-mentioned theory, this Association has consistantly advocated their inclusion in any plan for survivor benefits. It seems manifestly clear that the survivors of personnel previously retired, as well as the survivors of personnel who chance to be in active status upon the initiation of any such plan, are equally in need of the social security to be derived therefrom and the equities of the former are in every respect as well established as those of the latter.

"The Retired Officers Association requests that this letter be associated with its proposal on this subject contained in my letter of 17 September 1947 and together considered by the Joint Service Pay Committee to the end that military personnel in retired status be given equal opportunity with those in active status in any participating retirement plan which may be proposed or established."

In this connection the following from an editorial comment in the October 18, 1947 issue of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is of interest:

"Admiral Fechteler believes, as the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL has long contended, that the morale and efficiency of the regular establishments would be higher if everyone knew that his widow and children would be provided for upon his death, regardless of the cause. It is his thought that a system could be worked out whereby regular personnel would contribute a fixed portion of their income toward the security of their dependents. If such a plan be recommended it should be broad enough to cover all those service widows not now receiving pensions under other laws, as well as the families of those officers now retired or who will be retired before the plan goes into effect."

As this goes to press, the report of the Joint Service Pay Committee is in the hands of Secretary of Defense Forrestal to whom the secretaries of the departments concerned have made their comments and reccommendations. It is understood to include proposals for a participating retirement plan with survivor benefits, and recommendations for substantial increases in pay. It is to be hoped, as it should be expected, that the plan will include the widows and dependents of those who were retired prior to its effectiveness in any survivor benefits proposed by the plan, and the Association intends to support such application.

In 1944 the Association made a study of the subject of pensions for widows and dependents of deceased retired personnel of the armed services in view of the fact that no provision had been made for them, except the pitifully inadequate pensions provided in cases of war service and peace-time service-connected deaths. Indeed, as the matter now stands, no provisions exist for old age protection of the widows and dependents of career military personnel such as that provided for the widows and dependents of civilians under the Federal Old Age and Survivor Insurance Plan under the Social Security Administration. Provision in this respect has already been made for the Foreign Service, yet those of the military services have been left to their own devices to protect their widows and dependent survivors as best they may through the private purchase of such insurance as they have been able to afford from pay which has for years been hardly adequate to defray current living expenses, much less to purchase adequate private life insurance.

The Association reached the conclusion that pensions should be provided for widows and dependents of deceased retired military personnel in addition to pensions otherwise authorized by law for such people, the pensions to be paid from funds to which contributions would be made by the retired personnel. That proposal related only to a compulsory contribution by all living personnel, active and retired, having dependents, and its sole purpose was to establish, upon the death of any contributor, a modest annuity for his dependents.

In its issue for 25 October 1947 the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL states: "The participating retirement plan as outlined in the report contains clauses which would provide special pension benefits for widows. These pensions, however, would apply only to those widowed subsequent to the passage of such legislation." It is not clear from that statement whether the proposed plan would apply to the widows of those who are in retired status upon its effective date or whether the proposed plan would extend only to the widows of those who are on the active list at that time. The former should be the case since the equities demand the inclusion of the widows and dependents of all for the following reasons:

(a) *Service considerations.* The services which have been rendered to the Government by one who chances to have been retired *prior* to the effective date of any such plan are presumably as important to the nation as are

the services of one who *by happenstance* is on the active list upon its initiation. Each has devoted his active life to the military service of his country and there is no sound basis for a differentiation between them insofar as survivor benefits are concerned, whether that service was performed over a span of years prior to, after, or including the effective date of a survivor benefit plan which we believe should long since have been established.

(b) *Pay considerations.* The pay of military personnel has been, is now, and necessarily must always be less than equivalent to the value of the service rendered to and received by the Government. Hence, the necessity for both retirement pay and survivor benefits, since the active duty pay is not sufficient for military personnel adequately to provide for either, much less both, even with the greatest foresight and frugality. To raise the pay for the specific purpose of providing adequate means for payment into a fund for survivor benefits is to concede that the pay in the past has been and is now inadequate to finance privately purchased protection for dependents. In the last analysis it is the Government which should underwrite the costs of any survivor benefit plan for the military services whether by direct appropriation for the plan or through increased pay from which those whose dependents are to be benefited may contribute to the fund. Individuals would not then be purchasing a right or benefit for their widows and dependents from private funds obtained from sources other than their pay, but would be contributing from the pay itself. For that reason there is no rational basis for including only those who *by happenstance* are on the active lists upon the initiation of the plan. Those on the retired lists should be included as well.

(c) *Widows and dependents needs.* As between the widows and dependents of those who die while on active duty and those who die while in retired status after military careers with only their military pay from which to provide for themselves and their families, there is no less need by one than by the other simply upon the basis of the dates of retirement. Both have been subjected to the same standards and conditions during the service of those upon whom they have been dependent and will in all probability be subjected to the same economic necessity. This is of course the humane consideration which is the basis of any survivor benefit plan which, in our opinion, should be on such a broad basis as to benefit all in the same class, regardless of artificial and technical considerations such as the effective date of any proposed law taking precedence over the date of retirement.

Those are the principles upon which the Association has based its consideration of this problem. It is our conviction that any plan which does not include with the widows and dependents of those who die on active duty all widows and dependents of retired military personnel who have equal equities, will be unrealistic and unacceptable.

It is the desire and the purpose of the Association to support any plan for survivor benefits which is sufficiently comprehensive in application and toward that end to appear and testify on the basis of the above mentioned principles and conclusions when any such plan may be considered by the Congress.

BONUS LAWS—WORLD WAR II

Nine states—Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont—and Alaska have enacted bonus laws. Information concerning these laws and other state veterans' benefits will be furnished on request.

DISABILITY RETIREMENTS STUDY

The whole system of retirement for physical disability is once more under study—this time within both the executive and legislative branches of the Government. It will be recalled that this subject was considered during 1946 by the House Committee on Naval Affairs due to alleged discriminations in physical retirements as between personnel of the regular services and of the reserve components which resulted in a report by the Committee on 2 January 1947 (Bul. Jan. 1947, p. 3). The present consideration in the executive branch follows a requirement by President Truman to Secretary Forrestal for a submission of the names of officers who have been retired for physical disability since the termination of the war and the reason for retirement in each case. The studies in Congress result from action within the committees on armed services of both houses. In addition the Treasury Department, on 3 December 1947, recommended that Congress pass legislation removing part of the tax exemption now given officers and enlisted men of the armed services who have been retired for disability.

With the permission of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL the following article on this subject captioned "Study Disability Retirements" is reprinted:

"'The policy-making subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee has agreed that the matter of the tax exempt retirement of Regular Army and Navy officers for disability reasons, should be investigated,' Representative Dewey Short (R. Mo.) announced this week.

"The next day it was also announced that President Truman has asked Secretary of Defense Forrestal to supply him with a list of all Army, Navy and Air Force officers retired for physical disability with a view to instituting a study to determne how disabled some of them are.

"Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, AUS, Military Aide to the President, stated 'There's been a lot of criticism about General Meyers and the President wants to have the list at his command. Some of the names in it might have to be looked into.'

"Many members of Congress expressed dismay that Meyers' retirement pay was tax exempt because he was retired for physical disability. Many believe, however, that all retired officers who have given their life's service to the country should have their pay tax exempt instead of being forced to refund part of it to their Government at a time when their income already has been cut virtually in half (through loss of all allowances and reduction of base pay to three-quarters). Furthermore, officers of the Army and Air Force are forced to revert to their lower permanent ranks on retirement unless they are retired for physical disability.

"The Department of the Army disclosed at about the same time that a total of 2,505 regular Army and Air Force officers have been retired for disability since June 30, 1940. This figure was almost twice the amount of those retired for non-disability during the same period. It was also revealed that 26,377 non-regular officers of the two services, had been certified to the Veterans Administration for retirement pay for disability reasons during the same period.

"Representative Short, a member of the policy making subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, said that the committee 'feels that a closer check should be kept on the whole system,' adding:

"'Far too many officers have been getting retired for

disability in comparison with the number retired for non-disability reasons.

" 'It strikes me as a strange situation when high-ranking officers, retired for disability, thus giving them untaxed pensions, are able to go out into civilian life and hold down high-salaried jobs.

" 'The investigation will not be intended to deprive worthy officers of the retirement benefits they have earned but will have a wholesome effect and either prove or disprove the stories that have gone the rounds. We will determine whether there is need for corrective measures—and it appears that there is—and immediately make needed changes in legislation if that is the source of the trouble.' "

In directing the submission of reports to him, the President was said to have given assurances that no deserving officer who has been retired for physical disability shall suffer and these same assurances have been given in all quarters. Those disabled in combat and those whose health was broken in military service should have no apprehensions as to the outcome of the various considerations which are being given to this matter, nor should those whose careers have been terminated by reason of findings of physical incapacity which have resulted in forced premature retirements, particularly those who were so retired before the war against their own vigorous protestations.

The Association has been deeply conscious of this whole situation and will be prepared in every proper way to voice its views in protection of those who are on the retired lists by proper administrative determinations.

CREDIT FOR SERVICE AS A CADET, MIDSHIPMAN OR AVIATION CADET

In the Bulletin, Third Quarter 1947, p. 1, it was pointed out that the War, Navy and Treasury Departments had all reported favorably on the Gurney Bill (S.657) to authorize credit for service as a cadet, midshipman or aviation cadet and that the proposal has the approval of the Bureau of the Budget.

The following under the caption "May Recognize Cadet Service", which appeared in its issue for September 20, 1947, is printed with the permission of ARMED FORCE:

"Ranking Army and Navy legislative officers agreed this week that the time-worn legislative proposal to credit service as a cadet, midshipman or aviation cadet for retirement and pay purposes stands a better chance of enactment by the second session, 80th Congress, than ever before.

"Latest sponsor of this remedial and rectifying legislation is Senator Chan Gurney, chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee. His bill (S.657) was introduced last February 19, but was not acted upon because of the Navy's slowness in submitting requested comments on the measure.

"Soon after the bill was introduced it was cleared by the Joint Army and Navy Personnel Board, Bureau of the Budget and the Treasury Department.

"The War Department reported on June 26 that it favored the bill but suggested several clarifying amendments. However, not until July 10—less than three weeks before Congress adjourned—did the Navy endorse the bill. It joined the War Department in recommending that the retroactive provisions be eliminated. A substitute draft of the bill was submitted with the Department's comments.

"As introduced by Senator Gurney, the bill provides that its provisions become effective retroactive to June 1, 1942, when the Pay Readjustment Act was amended to credit a score or more types of military and non-military service for retirement and pay purposes.

"As pointed out in a recent ARMED FORCE editorial on the Gurney bill, the law now credits some 20 different classifications of service for pay and retirement purposes. These services are not only the ordinary ones of the regular military establishments, but also include such groups as the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, the Philippine Scouts, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

"Only four of these 20 classifications require full time employment on active duty, and the remainder require practically no active duty, except in time of war.

"By way of contrast, thousands of aviation cadets saw as many as three years of active duty during World War II, and West Point and Annapolis cadets and midshipmen lead a cloistered and regimented existence during their four years as inmates of the service academies."

The Army and Navy Register has permitted us to print extracts from its comment on "Cadet-Midshipman Longevity Pay", which appeared in its October 18, 1947 issue as follows:

"From correspondence received by the Army and Navy Register recently, it appears that there is belief that under construction placed on certain laws of Congress, and amendments thereto, made by the Personnel Act of 1947, services as cadets at the U. S. Military Academy and as midshipmen at the Naval Academy can be credited for pay and retirement purposes. This is incorrect.

"On February 19, 1947, Senator Chan Gurney of South Dakota introduced a bill (S.657) designed to grant longevity pay to cadets and midshipmen retroactive to June 1, 1942.

"The War and Navy Departments reported the bill favorably, with the exception of the part making its provisions retroactive. No hearings were held and action must await the next session of the 80th Congress which convenes Jan. 6, 1948.

"The War Department, in favoring the bill, advised the Senate Armed Services Committee that officers of the Army are permitted to include cadet service for longevity purposes, if they were first appointed prior to Aug. 25, 1912.

"Similarly the Navy Department advised that Navy and Marine Corps officers who are graduates of the Naval Academy, are permitted to include midshipman service for longevity, if they were first appointed prior to the year 1913.

"There are approximately 17,000 officers who are now denied the provisions of existing pay increases for longevity because of cadet and midshipman service.

"It seems clear that service at the two academies is on a full-time basis, and those who render it are now, and always have been, constituent parts of the armed services."

The Association has requested the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services to be heard on this measure when it is considered and has prepared a brief for that purpose.

PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY RETIRED OFFICERS

In an opinion dated 10 June, 1947, the Attorney General held that retired officers of the regular Army are prohibited by Section 109 of the Criminal Code (18 U.S.C. 198) from appearing as counsel before Army retiring boards, the Secretary of War's Disability Review Board, and the Secretary of War's Discharge Review Board. In concluding his opinion the Attorney General said in his letter to the Secretary of War:

"I trust that with this explanation of my views concerning the application of retired officers before retiring and review boards, you will be in a position to determine whether such officers are eligible to appear before other Army boards not specifically mentioned in your letter."

This opinion, the principles of which apply to all retired officers, serves to show how broad the provisions contained in the statute are considered by the Attorney General and emphasizes the necessity for Congressional action to relieve retired officers from its onerous and unnecessary restrictions.

Section 109 of the Criminal Code provides:

"Whoever, being an officer of the United States, or a person holding any place of trust or profit, or discharging any official function under, or in connection with, any executive department of the Government of the United States, shall act as an agent or attorney for prosecuting any claim against the United States, or in any manner, or by any means, otherwise than in discharge of his proper official duties, shall aid or assist in the prosecution or support of any such claim, or receive any gratuity, or any share of or interest in any claim, from any claimant against the United States, with intent to aid or assist, or in consideration of having aided or assisted, in the prosecution of such claim, shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. Members of the National Guard of the District of Columbia who receive compensation for their services as such shall not be held or construed to be officers of the United States, or persons holding any place of trust or profit, or discharging any official function under or in connection with any executive department of the Government of the United States within the provision of this section."

Both in the April 1947 Bulletin, p. 3, and that for the Third Quarter 1947, p. 4, it was pointed out that two bills have been introduced to modify the restrictions, S.156 by Sen. Holland and H.R. 4410 by Rep. Bolton. These bills are pending before the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, respectively. The enactment of an appropriate measure to enable retired officers to exercise the same rights as other citizens, without unncessary limitations, is anticipated.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST DUAL COMPENSATION

In both the April 1947 Bulletin, p. 3, and that for the Third Quarter 1947, p. 3, the situation with reference to the proposed removal of restrictions against dual compensation from the Federal Government was discussed. In the latter the active interest of the cognizant departments, particularly the Navy Department, was reported.

In addition to the bills now pending in Congress, none of which are adequate, two proposals are now under consideration in the Bureau of the Budget, one submitted by the Civil Service Commission and the other by the Navy Department.

Under present law, those who have been retired for physical disability, as the result of injuries received in active combat, may receive both their retired pay and the pay of a civilian position under the Federal Government. Those who have been retired for physical disability from other causes may elect to receive either their retired pay or the pay of the civilian position. Those, not retired for physical disability, whose retired pay is less than $3,000 may take both, but the total pay may not exceed $3,000, but if the retired pay exceeds $3,000, one may not even accept a civilian position under the Federal Government.

The proposal of the Civil Service Commission is understood merely to suggest raising the $3,000 limitation to $5,000. This proposal is only partially adequate. It is understood that the proposal of the Navy Department (Bul. 3rd Qtr., p. 4) includes the same provision but also recommends that one not retired for physical disability be permitted to elect to receive his retired pay or the pay of the civilian position, thus enabling him to accept a Government position with pay higher than his retired pay which in many cases would prove beneficial both to the Government and to the individual.

COMPLETE STUDY OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN PROGRESS

Senator E. D. Millikin, (R. Colo.) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance has announced the appointment of an Advisory Council to make a complete study of the social security program.

This study is in accordance with a resolution introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Millikin and Senator Walter F. George (D., Ga.), the former Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance. The resolution directs the Committee on Finance "to make a full and complete investigation" of social security with special reference to coverage, benefits, and taxes, and authorizes appointment of an Advisory Counsel to assist and advise the Committee in the investigation.

The Committee is headed by Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Charlottesville, Virginia, Rector of the University of Virginia, former Secretary of State of the United States, Chairman of the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations of International Security and of the American Delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco. Mr. Stettinius served on the Advisory Committee to the Council for National Defense, as Chairman of the Priorities Board, Lend-Lease Administrator, and in a number of other posts of high responsibility prior to his appointment as Secretary of State. The Committee, in addition to Mr. Stettinius, includes sixteen members prominent in industry, the professions, labor and Government.

The study will be comprehensive in nature and is expected to result in recommendations for improvements in the system. Prominent among the matters which the Committee is to consider is the problem of what should be done to credit veterans with the time spent in military service toward old age and survivor's insurance benefits. This is an involved problem in view of the complications arising from the fact that many veterans are entitled to and are receiving retirement pay and pensions as a result of military service which will require coordination. We shall follow the study and recommendations of the Committee and report to our membership through the Bulletin from time to time as the study progresses and as to any legislative activity on this subject, which may affect those of our members who have become employed in private business.

CONGRESSIONAL INCORPORATION

In the Bulletin, 3rd Qtr. 1947, p. 7, it was stated that a proposal to seek Congressional incorporation of the Association was under consideration. The Board of Directors at its regular meeting on 26 September 1947, without passing upon the question of seeking Congressional incorporation, directed that a request be made to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs that the Association be recognized to present claims on behalf of its membership and their widows and dependents. Accordingly, Admiral Sellers addressed a letter to General Bradley on 27 September, 1947 requesting such information, but was advised by General Bradley that such recognition may not be extended to the Association unless it receives a Congressional charter. Consequently, the Board of Directors at its regular meeting on 14 November 1947 adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, It is necessary, for the proper functioning of the Association in its efforts in behalf of members and their widows and orphans before the Veterans Administration, that

the Association be federally incorporated, now, therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Legal Counsel of the Association is hereby directed to take all necessary steps to so incorporate the Association with due regard to the liaison agreement with the departments with which the Association has such agreements."

Work is now in prograss to draft a proposed Bill to accomplish the above mentioned purpose for submission to the Congress after having obtained the views of the departments of the Government from which our membership is drawn.

ASSOCIATION TO STUDY DECENTRALIZATION

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on 14 November 1947 the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved: That the President be authorized and requested to appoint and name the Chairman of a committee of five members of the Association, one whom shall be the Legal Counsel—Assistant to the Executive Vice President —to study the problem of, and formulate plans to effect, a decentralization of the present set-up of the Association by establishing groups to be called chapters, posts, or other appropriate designation, in strategic locations throughout the United States, and submit a report of their proceedings and findings, with recommendations as to the method of establishing and financing such groups, by April 30, 1948."

The following committee was appointed: Captain F. O. Willenbucher, U. S. Navy (Retired), Chairman; Lieutenant Colonel D. A. Hanes, U. S. Army (Retired); Commander R. A. Sentman, U. S. Navy (Retired); Major A. L. Gardner, U. S. Marine Corps (Retired), and Lieutenant C. C. Drake, U. S. Coast Guard (Retired).

The Committee will soon begin its study and requests suggestions, comments and recommendations from the membership addressed to the Chairman at the National Headquarters of the Association, 1600 20th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

ASSOCIATION TO STUDY SCHOLARSHIP PLAN

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on 14 November 1947 the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved: That the President be authorized and requested to appoint and name the Chairman of a committee of five members of the Association, one of whom shall be the Legal Counsel—Asssistant to the Executive Vice President—to examine into and study the field of scholarships, with a view to establishing one or more scholarships, and report their findings and recommendations, which shall include a classification of eligibles for the scholarships, and a plan of financing same, to the President by April 30, 1948."

The following committee was appointed: Captain F. O. Willenbucher, U. S. Navy (Retired), Chairman; Rear Admiral C. E. Coney, U. S. Navy (Retired); Lieutenant Colonel D. A. Hanes, U. S. Army (Retired); Commander R. A. Sentman, U. S. Navy (Retired), and Lieutenant C. C. Drake, U. S. Coast Guard (Retired).

The Committee will soon begin its study and requests suggestions, comments and recommendations from the membership addressed to the Chairman at the National Headquarters of the Association in Washington.

TO OUR MEMBERS

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors 26 September 1947, eligibility to membership was extended to commissioned officers, warrant officers and nurses of the reserve components of the regular services. The membership was informed of this action by letter, inclosing a copy of the By-laws, as amended.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors 14 November 1947, the By-laws of the Association were interpreted by resolutions to include eligibility of the following: Members of the Fleet Naval Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve who hold commissioned or warrant rank although they are not yet entitled to the retired pay of that rank; Generals of the Army and Admirals of the Fleet of the Navy who, in lieu of retirement in fact, assume inactive status rather than full retirement, and commissioned officers and warrant officers on the Honorary Retired Lists.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors 14 November 1947, a resolution was adopted designating Saturday, 14 February 1947 at 10 a.m. as the time for the National Convention of our Association to be held in Washington, D. C. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a large attendance on that occasion. Detailed information concerning the plans for the Convention will be mailed to our membership.

The membership drive which began during August has produced very gratifying results. There were 463 new members accepted during the month of November, and new members are being accepted at an even greater rate at this time, as against an average of 45 prior to the initiation of the drive. It is indicated that the total membership will pass the 5,000 mark before the end of the present year. This has been largely due to the enthusiastic cooperation of our members to expand the membership by urging their friends who are eligible to join, in the realization that only through a greatly expanded membership can the Association become the instrumentality for mutual benefit it deserves to be.

It has been our purpose to include in the Bulletin items of importance to retired personnel, their widows and dependents, dealing with such matters as their rights to hospitalization, commissary privileges, pensions, insurance, and proposed changes in those rights, and it is desired to keep this information current by reference, in subsequent issues of the Bulletin, to what has already been published. It is therefore suggested that each member retain his copies of the Bulletin in a file to which he may refer from time to time. While comments, suggestions and questions are always welcome and will receive prompt replies, it may be found that information in the Bulletin will often provide a complete answer to one who wishes to be informed on a particular subject.

Recently a careful check of the files of members and their addresses has been made against the addressograph system to insure that no member will fail to receive a copy of the Bulletin and other matters which are circulated generally to the membership. It is essential that our records of addresses be complete and accurate, and members are therefore requested to keep us informed of any changes of address.

Our present goal is a membership of 10,000 which can be

To RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
1600 Twentieth St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

Date .....

Gentlemen:—

You may enroll me as a member of the Retired Officers Association. Inclosed is check for $5.00:

Entrance fee	$1.00	*Fifty cents of which is for subscription to Association Bulletin.*
Annual dues	4.00	
	$5.00	

Name .....
(Please Print)

Rank and Service .....

Maling Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

achieved if each member will undertake to obtain for the Association at least one new member. An application blank for that purpose has been provided in this Bulletin, but an application by letter giving the essential information is all that is required in order to apply for membership.

The Association has available a limited number of lapel rosettes, the wearing of which has become popular with our members. Attempt is being made to obtain an additional supply as soon as possible. In the meantime, until the supply is exhausted, they will be furnished, one to each member requiring one, at fifty cents each. Wearing the Association emblem identifies one as a member and is helpful to the Association.

In the last issue of the Bulletin those of our members who are practicing attorneys were asked to furnish us with information as to their office addresses and types of practice in which they are engaged. The same information concerning those of our members who are engaged in other professions and in business is now desired from those who wish to give us that information. Information is also desired as to those engaged in hobbies which may prove of interest to other members.

Many of our members have undoubtedly followed Admiral Halsey's interesting story in installment form in the Saturday Evening Post, and will be interested to know that it has now been published in book form by Whittlesey House and is available for purchase through the U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, Annapolis, Maryland, and at most book stores. Incidentally, Admiral Halsey is a member of the Association.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Major HAS, USA says:

"Your April 1947 Bulletin shows your activities as worthwhile endeavors for the general good of all retired officers instead of small matters of bickering between divisions of officers on retired status. May I extend to you my congratulations for extending your activities into such a broad field and with a more altruistic viewpoint."

Attorney for widow of Col. AGF, USA says:

"I wish to express my deep appreciation of your letter of November 6th and to thank you on behalf of my sister for the information which you so kindly obtained for her in regard to Government insurance, pension and retirement pay of the late Colonel * * *. It must have taken considerable time to get the detailed information which you have given us."

Captain CEC, USA says:

"My sincere thanks to the Association for your fine support of the 24b officers in their effort to retain 75% retired pay."

Lieut. AWB, USN says:

"The Retired Officers Association was the best investment I ever made. During my recent illness you and your organization left no stone unturned in helping my wife and my family obtain a hearing before the Veterans Administration."

Miss AC says:

"We were overjoyed and deeply gratified at your very kind reply to my letter of September 26th concerning terminal leave payments to my brother. Believe me, sir, your promptness and interest is deeply appreciated and for that reason we turn to you again."

Captain SH, USN says:

"Good work. We need a good watchful eye and a strong voice these days. I feel that your sane, sound and realistic manner is a cornerstone in the ROA."

Brig. Gen. JSW, USA says:

"The letter dated 29 September was so comprehensive and convincing that I am willing to waive my life membership privileges and pay annual dues to the Association amounting to $4.00. Enclosed please find check for same."

Lieut. Comdr. EV, USCG says:

"I can't see how any retired officer, if he knows about your Association, could afford to get along without it. The Bulletin itself, even though no other service were rendered, is well worth the amount of your annual dues."

Captain HG, USA says:

The arrival of the Bulletin also stirred me from lethargis procrastination to the point that I have ready for mailing letters to two buddies of long ago and recently retired or about to be urging that if they have not already done so they join the Association forthwith and without delay."

Surgeon CR, USPHS says

"After reading the letter of Captain * * * in the Bulletin I feel impelled to follow his commendable example. You may put me on a dues-paying status."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

Of Retired Officers Association Bulletin, published Quarterly, at Washington, District of Columbia, for the year ending Oct. 1, 1947, Washington, District of Columbia, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia, personally appeared Harry G. Hamlet, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the Retired Officers Association Bulletin and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Retired Officers Association, Inc., 1600 20th St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C. Editor, Managing Editor, Business Manager, Harry G. Hamlet, 1600 20th St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

2. That the owner is: Retired Officers Association, Incorporated, 1600 20th St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C.; David F. Sellers, President, 2216 Wyoming Ave., N. W., Washington 8, D. C.; Louis McCarty Little, 1st Vice President, 3010 O Street, N. W., Washington 7, D. C.; Walter C. Baker, 2nd Vice President, 3133 Connecticut Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.; Charles W. Cairnes, 3rd Vice President, Ontario Apts., 18th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.; Harry G. Hamlet, Exec. Vice President-Treasurer, 6410 Beechwood Drive, Chevy Chase 15, Md.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is 3,000.

HARRY G. HAMLET.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of September, 1947.

BERTIE E. EARP.

(My commission expires June 14, 1952)

RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN
1600 Twentieth Street, N.W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Entered as second class matter, May 2, 1945, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.